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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 19, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable J. FRENCH HILL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### INTRODUCING THE SCHOOL MEALS PARITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Federal School Meals Parity Act with my colleague Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands as the original co-sponsor.

Our bill would ensure that Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are reimbursed fairly under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's in-school meal and child nutrition programs.

These USDA programs provide nutritionally balanced meals to needy K-12 students each school day, including a breakfast, a lunch, and an after-school snack.

For many needy school children, these USDA programs often provide their only well-balanced or full meal of the day.

These important Federal nutrition programs serve millions—millions—of American schoolchildren nationally, including some 18,000 Guam students and more than 10,000 students from the Virgin Islands.

However, current USDA regulations reimburse Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands at the rate for the continental United States. At the same time, our peer outlying jurisdictions—Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico—receive a much higher reimbursement rate.

According to USDA, the higher reimbursement rates for these States and territory reflect higher costs of delivering these programs in those outlying jurisdictions.

Well, we agree wholeheartedly that all outlying jurisdictions should be reimbursed at higher rates than the mainland United States because of these higher costs.

All five territories and both States outside the continental United States share the challenges of higher costs of living, fewer locally available resources, and greater percentages of schoolchildren from underserved households.

Indeed, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands both have higher costs of living, lower median household incomes, and greater unemployment than the mainland United States. Both territories face much higher costs for imported food, transportation, fuel, refrigeration, and other everyday necessities than the mainland. Certainly, Guam is the furthest of the territories.

To address these inadequacies, our bill would require that the USDA reim-

burse Guam at the same rate as its peer jurisdictions, Alaska and Hawaii; and the USDA reimburse the U.S. Virgin Islands at the same rate as neighboring Puerto Rico.

Under the Federal School Meals Parity Act, public, Department of Defense, and private schools on Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands would receive additional Federal funding to provide more in-school nutritious meals to our needy students.

Lastly, our bill directs USDA to complete a report comparing the costs of providing in-school meals to students in all five U.S. territories with the mainland 48 States and the outlying States of Alaska and Hawaii.

I continue working in partnership with Congresswoman PLASKETT to ensure that parity for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands under USDA's in-school meal and child nutrition programs.

So as Congress works to finalize the 2018 farm bill, I hope that our colleagues will provide equitable reimbursement for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For me and Congresswoman PLASKETT, this is an issue of fundamental fairness for the territories and our students. It must be a priority for our House and Senate colleagues as well.

### LET US DEBATE THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, with the multitude of serious issues and problems facing our Nation, one important issue has been forgotten: Afghanistan.

That brings me to a moving Washington Post feature written by Greg Jaffe on May 27 titled "Imperfect Answers—A Son Was Killed in Action and His Parents Ask Why."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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